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the reef, more or less finely comminuted and not rich in animal life. In depths beyond the three hundred fathom line, but with considerable variation in its limits, we find again the Globigerina mud which also fills the greater part of the Gulf of Mexico in deep water.

The Coast Survey intends to prosecute these researches next year with increased means.

FOSSIL WHALE IN THE DRIFT. — The bones of a whale closely allied to the White Whale (*Beluga leucas*) of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, have been discovered at Cornwall, Ontario County, Canada. It seems to be the same as the *B. Vermontana* of Thompson, — *Nature*.

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## MICROSCOPY.

PHOTO-MICROGRAPHS FOR THE STEREOSCOPE.\* — Before the suggestion in Carpenter's last edition on the Microscope, that stereoscopic pictures might be obtained by photographing a microscopic object alternately with the two sides of an objective, I had been working on the subject with some degree of success. Dr. Carpenter, however, seems to mention the fact rather as a means of convenient illustration, or a scientific curiosity, than as the expedient of great practical utility that I conceive it to be.

Two or three methods seem to be applicable to the production of such pictures. Some objects, somewhat equal in width and depth, and visible under a lens of long focus, may be tilted by a simple, graduated, and carefully centred mechanical arrangement, first toward one side, and then equally toward the other, photographing each aspect by the same power and under essentially the same conditions: or, of certain objects under low and medium powers, a conception of solidity may be gained, by using photographs which are identical, except that, by a slight change of focus, they represent different planes of the object: or, the object and lens remaining unchanged, the lateral halves of the objective may be alternately stopped off, either directly, or by means of stops under the achromatic condenser, or by means of an achromatic condenser (of very small angular aperture) inclined first toward

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\*From remarks by Dr. R. H. Ward, at a meeting of the Troy (N. Y.) Scientific Association, Feb. 20th, 1871.

one side and then toward the other, so that each picture shall represent the view actually taken of the object by each side of the objective. The latter method of the three, is doubtless the one most generally applicable in practice.

Pictures formed in this manner, and mounted upon cards ready for use in the ordinary stereoscopes, would greatly excel in elegance and definiteness any present means of disseminating results in many branches of microscopical study. As a means both of popularizing the familiar facts of microscopy, and of interchanging among microscopists the knowledge of novel results of investigation, they would be invaluable. Few objects, for instance, would be more interesting to persons of general, if not scientific culture, than excellent stereoscopic views of the structure of plants, insects, and other familiar natural objects; and almost any microscopist would be glad to possess similar views representing the latest researches into the structure and relations of tissues, the micro-chemistry of poisons and adulterations, or the anatomy of typical species in any family of microscopic organisms. Such pictures might be usefully prepared by any public institution, and distributed to scientific institutions and societies; or, preferably, prepared by some scientific, not sensational, private source, and furnished to buyers, like Dancer's micro-photographs, through the ordinary channels of trade.

In order to photograph, without delay, any field of view which a working microscopist deems worthy of preservation, he should have a camera mounted on a plank which is blocked at one end for the feet of the stand used as a "working instrument." Then, whenever desired, the eye-piece is removed, the instrument levelled into a horizontal position and placed accurately on the plank, and the magnified image instantly thrown upon the focussing plate of the camera. Finding the usual band, passing around pulleys and over the fine-adjustment wheel, to be a slight annoyance in carrying out this plan with the stand I ordinarily use (a large stand of the "Jackson" model), I make the fine adjustment by a somewhat soft cylinder of India-rubber lying upon the wheel. This cylinder is rather more than three inches long, is an inch and a half in diameter, and weighs about four ounces. It is open through its centre, like a tube with thick walls and small bore, and is mounted upon one end of a straight, light, wooden rod, the other end of which is supported on or near the top of the camera.

It is prevented from rolling off from the fine-adjustment wheel by a horizontal wire, transverse to the axis of the apparatus, attached by a hinge-joint to a post at the side of the plank, and to a pin in the end of the wooden rod which just passes through the cylinder; and being retained not over the centre, but somewhat to one side of the wheel, loss of motion is simply impossible, and an extremely fine and manageable motion is secured. The unequalled facility and certainty with which this apparatus can be instantly laid upon the fine-adjustment wheel or turned back from it, is sufficiently evident.

MICROSCOPY AT THE ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM.—The Medical Society of the State of New York, one of the largest and most influential organizations of the kind in this country, at a recent meeting adopted a series of resolutions expressing its interest in and appreciation of the microscopical work of the United States Army Medical Museum at Washington. The Society approves, with some degree of enthusiasm, the methods of investigation, and of disseminating results, employed at the Museum, especially in regard to the study of healthy and diseased tissues; believing that the progress attained is of material use to the profession, and that it would be unattainable at present without the unusual facilities furnished by the Government.—R. H. W.

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## NOTES.

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Mr. Boucard, the well known dealer in specimens of Natural History, and traveller, formerly living in Paris, but now resident in London, proposes the publication of a work on the Coleoptera of Mexico and Central America, including the adjacent portions of the United States, especially the Pacific region. He earnestly desires contributions of specimens, whether named or not, to be used in his investigations, and will return such as he is not permitted to keep, suitably identified, and will render an equivalent in other specimens, if desired, for such as are sent to him to be retained. Any specimens intended for him may be sent through the Smithsonian Institution, or direct to his establishment in London, 55 Great Russell street, Bloomsbury, W. G.